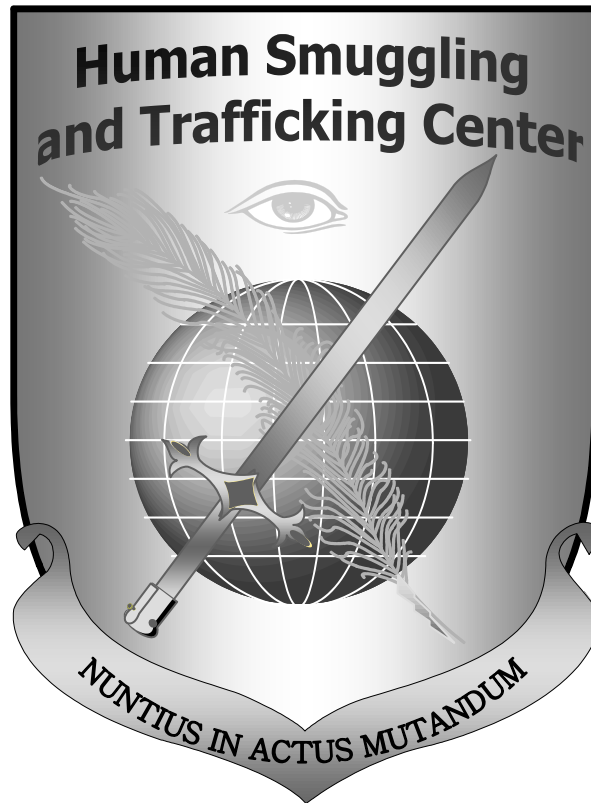


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Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center



HSTC Intelligence Note

**Tenancingo Bulletin #6:
Trafficking Hub Receives
Uneven Mexican Government Efforts**

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(CONTEXT STATEMENT: The information in this report was provided by the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) in collaboration with the participating agencies of the HSTC. The HSTC is an interagency fusion center and information clearinghouse, composed of representatives from various governmental agencies, and focused on matters of human smuggling, human trafficking, and the facilitation of terrorist travel. The HSTC provides the U.S. Government with a mechanism to achieve greater integration and overall effectiveness in its efforts to eliminate these activities. The HSTC is unique among U.S. organizations and centers in that it concentrates on illicit worldwide travel and provides guidance to U.S. Government policymakers.)

Scope Note: *This is the sixth in a series of bulletins at the unclassified level based solely on open source reporting intended to inform federal, state, and local law enforcement about the Tlaxcala, Mexico-based sex trafficking network with ties to the U.S.*

(U) Trafficking Hub Receives Uneven Mexican Government Efforts

(U) While Mexican federal, State of Mexico, and Federal District authorities are proactively combating sex trafficking, other state governments, such as Tlaxcala, are less actively pursuing trafficking crimes, according to numerous mainstream Mexican media sources.

(U) Mexican Federal Government Making Strides but its Capacity Still Limited

(U) At the federal judicial level, the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Women and Trafficking (FEMVITRA), an office of the Attorney General totaling 10 attorneys, focuses on crimes involving two or three traffickers. Cases involving larger groups of perpetrators are referred to the Assistant Attorney for the Investigation of Organized Crime (SIEDO). According to the Attorney General's annual activity report, FEMVITRA investigated 34 cases in the period from 1 September 2009 to 31 July 2010, affecting 46 victims, and opened 182 disappearance investigations that may be related to trafficking. The Public Prosecutor, after an increase in staff, now has five attorneys prosecuting trafficking crimes.¹

(U) Capital Authorities Raid Hotels in the Capital with Tlaxcala Ties

(U) The Federal District's Attorney General's Office (PGJDF) has initiated 30 different investigations in the last four years. The majority of cases implicate four families - Guzmán, Flores, Mastranza, and Acatzin - in the Federal District (DF), Tlaxcala, and Puebla. As recently as January 2010, the PGJDF detained 29 people in the Federal District, many of the women from Tenancingo, Tlaxcala and linked to the Flores Carreto family. On 2 July 2010, DF authorities arrested another native of Tlaxcala using new social media to lure women to prostitute themselves in the capital.²

(U) Capital City Investigations Lead Back to Tlaxcala

(U) Of 90 cases that the Federal District Attorney General is investigating for human trafficking, 21 correspond to subjects from Tenancingo, Tlaxcala and two others from its

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outskirts. Many of the victims rescued in the capital city also identify their captors as “pimps from Tlaxcala,” specifically from Tenancingo.³

(U) Mexican Federal Authorities Begin to Target Tlaxcala-Based Rings on Tlaxcalan Soil

(U) Recent raids on Tlaxcala-based sex trafficking rings on Tlaxcalan state territory, in April, June, and September 2010 was the result of an investigation and operations led by the national Special Prosecutor for the Investigation of Organized Crime, the Federal Police, and the Mexican military, under increased pressure from the U.S., and not by Tlaxcalan state or local officials, according to Mexican media.^{4,5,6}

(U) Yet Tlaxcala State Offers Limited Support

(U) The Tlaxcala state Attorney General says his jurisdiction has no open trafficking cases, since there are open investigations under other jurisdictions, although several of his Ministerial Police have collaborated with DF investigators. A 6 January 2010 dismantled group used the same methods as the now incarcerated Flores Carreto family, including the kidnapping of the children of victims to coerce continued prostitution.⁷

(U) The Tenancingo mayor, Tlaxcala governor, and Tlaxcala State Commission on Human Rights have, in public statements, minimized allegations of trafficking in the state and attributed the lack of prosecutions to the absence of witnesses and of formal charges pressed.^{8,9} Some Tlaxcalan judges untrained in newer Mexican trafficking laws frequently choose to implement kidnapping, rape, or pornography charges, especially since so many of the crimes involve minors, according to Mexican NGOs reported in the press.¹⁰

(U) The Impunity Continues in Tenancingo

(U) Rumors of official connections to the sex trafficking industry run as high as the candidate for Municipal President of Tenancingo.¹¹ The Director of the Office for Services to Tlaxcalans Abroad and the public at large question why crimes that are well-known in Mexico are not curbed by local authorities, according to dialogues prevalent in local online discussion boards and chat forums.^{12,13,14,15}



Figure 1: (U) A poster exhibition at the Second Latin American Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Puebla, Mexico in September 2010 says, “We simply won’t accept it.” Puebla is just a few minutes across a state border from the smaller town of Tenancingo, Tlaxcala and a known place of recruitment and victimization of natives of both regions.

(U) Tlaxcalan state and Tenancingo local authorities will need to actively investigate and prosecute trafficking alongside federal and other state authorities in order to end the thriving sex trafficking business originating in their jurisdiction. This will require vetting and retraining complicit state and local law enforcement authorities and is unlikely to be a priority given competing public security concerns of the Mexican government. At the same time, since cartels and gangs are increasingly involving themselves in these trades, Mexican and U.S. authorities would do well to target this source of organized crime revenue concurrently with other objectives.

¹ (U) *Revista Contralinea*, "México, impasible ante la trata de personas: EU," <http://contralinea.info/archivo-revista/index.php/2010/10/12/mexico-impasible-ante-la-trata-de-personas-eu/>, accessed 21 October 2010.

² (U) *El Universal*, "PGJDF inicio en cuatro años 30 indagatorias por trata," 3 July 2010, <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/estados/76723.html>, accessed 24 August 2010.

³ (U) *Medios en Mexico*, "Trata y política se unen en Tenancingo," June 2010, <http://mediosenmexico.blogspot.com/2010/06/trata-y-politica-se-unen-en-tenancingo.html>, accessed 20 October 2010.

⁴ (U) *La Reforma*, "Capturan a cinco tratantes de blancas en Tlaxcala," 9 June 2010, <http://www.terra.com.mx/noticias/articulo/913606/Capturan+a+cinco+tratantes+de+blancas+en+Tlaxcala.htm>, accessed 20 October 2010.

⁵ (U) Attorney General of Mexico, Press Release, "Se Concede Orden de Aprehesion contra cuatro personas que operaban en Tenancingo, Tlaxcala y Miami," 26 August 2010, <http://www.pgr.gob.mx/prensa/2007/bol10/Ago/b102710.shtm>, accessed 20 October 2010.

⁶ (U) *MSNoticias*, "Buscan red de tratantes en Tenancingo," 23 September 2010, <http://www.msnoticias.com/notas.asp?id=9043>, accessed 21 October 2010.

⁷ (U) *El Sol de Irapuato*, "Vinculan a banda detenida en DF con lenones de Tenancingo," 8 January 2010, <http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldeirapuato/notas/n1469948.htm>, accessed 31 August 2010.

⁸ (U) *El Universal*, "Buscan red de tratantes en Tenancingo," 23 September 2010, <http://www.eluniversal.com.com.mx/primer/35585.html>, accessed 19 October 2010.

⁸ (U) *El Universal*, "Trata de personas ‘moderniza’ la esclavitud," 27 February 2009,

⁹ (U) *La Neta*, "Tlaxcala: OSC exigent publicacion de studio que revela trata," 10 February 2009, http://www.laneta.apc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=168:tlaxcala-osc-exigent-publicacion-de-estudio-que-revela-trata-&catid=64:noticias&Itemid=55, accessed 19 October 2010.

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¹⁰ (U) *Revista Contralinea*, "México, impasible ante la trata de personas: EU," <http://contralinea.info/archivo-revista/index.php/2010/10/12/mexico-impasible-ante-la-trata-de-personas-eu/>, accessed 21 October 2010.

¹¹ (U) *Medios en Mexico*, "Trata y politica se unen en Tenancingo," June 2010, <http://mediosenmexico.blogspot.com/2010/06/trata-y-politica-se-unen-en-tenancingo.html>, accessed 20 October 2010.

¹² (U) *La Jornada*, "Cobra fuerza el lenocinio en el sur de Tlaxcala, con anuencia de autoridades," 23 April 2006, <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2006/04/24/index.php?section=estados&article=039n1est>, accessed 20 October 2010.

¹³ (U) *Yahoo! Mexico Respuestas*, "Tenancingo, Tlaxcala... Por que no los Arrestan," 25 March 2007, <http://mx.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070324234905AARfzxk>, accessed 24 August 2010.

¹⁴ (U) *El Universal*, "¿Cuál es la solución contra la explotación sexual?," 26 September 2010, http://foros.eluniversal.com.mx/w_detalle.html?tdi=187&rtdi=10048, accessed 20 October 2010.

¹⁵ (U) *Señorío Tlaxcalteca*, "El Estado, ¿como factor de combate a la clandestinidad en temas sexuales?" 28 September 2009, <http://e-consulta.com/blogs/senoriotlaxcalteca/?p=420>, accessed 20 October 2010.